Complaints of rigging in recent bye-elections

1139. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been complaints of rigging in certain constituencies during the recent bye-elections to Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such complaints are looked into by the Election Commission, wherever necessary, in consultation with the appropriate authorities in the State Governments concerned.

A statement containing the gist of such complaints and the action taken thereon by the Election Commission is laid on the able of the Sabha. [*See Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 44*]

Brainwashing of Indians in Pak Jails

1140. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th May, 1988 under the caption "Brainwashing of Indians in Pak Jails";

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is torturing the Indian prisoners who are languishing in different jails there;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Pakistan Government if so, by when; and

(d) what other efforts Government propose to take to save the Indian prisoners from torture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some cases of ill-treatment of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails have come to our notice.

(c) Government have already protested to the Government of Pakistan against the ill-treatment of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

(d) Efforts are being made to secure the early repatriation of Indian nationals in Pakistani jails.

Purchase of Fighter Planes by Pakistan from Canberra

1141. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 19th May, 1988; under the caption 'Pak buying fighter planes from Canberra';

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) what precautionery steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government keeps a constant watch overa all such developments which could have an adverse impact on our security and takes appropriate ocunter measures. Providing further details would not be in the public interest.

Irradiation of food stuff for Export

1142. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given clearance for